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COVER MESSAGE:

Re USSN 09/369,510

Mr CHOBBIN -

PLEASE CALL TO SCHEDULE THE
TELEPHONE INTERVIEW.

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Our Case No. 5050/584-1**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:)	
)	
John A. Hossack et al.)	
)	Examiner: M. Choobin
Serial No. 09/369,510)	
)	Group Art Unit No. 2621
Filing Date: August 6, 1999)	
)	
For Medical Diagnostic Ultrasonic)	
Imaging Method and System for)	
Displaying Multi-Frame Images)	

AGENDA FOR TELEPHONE INTERVIEW**A. Review the preferred embodiment**

1. Multiple frames are acquired, and each frame is identified with a particular phase of a cycle (e.g., the cardiac cycle). For example, each frame may be labeled with one of ten separate phases, and ten frames may be collected for each transducer position (See p. 2, l. 26 - p. 3, l. 6).
2. Multiple images are generated from the frames of (1), and each image uses data from multiple frames, all of about the same phase. Examples are images constructed from a 3-D data set (p. 3, l. 25 - p. 4, l. 3 and p. 6, ll. 2-4) and extended field of view images (p. 6, ll. 10-16 and 28-30).

B. Review Gandini U.S. Pat. 5,645,066

1. The frames used to create 3-D images are not selected based on cycle (e.g. cardiac) phase (See col. 4, ll. 6-10 and col. 6, ll. 22-49, which call for no selection of frames by cycle phase).

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2. The Cine-loop description at col. 4, ll. 54 relates to 2-D image sequences which show tissue motion, not to 3-D images or to extended field of view images.

C. Compare preferred embodiment with Gandini

1. Figure A shows an example of frames used to form 3-D data set or extended field of view image in a preferred embodiment.
2. Figure B shows an example of frames used to form 3-D data set in Gandini.
3. Gandini does not recognize the problem solved by this invention.

D. Review Claims 24 and 32

1. Claim 24(b) and (c)
2. Claim 32(b) and (c)
3. Proposed amendments
 32. (Amended) An ultrasonic imaging system comprising:
 - (a) means for acquiring image data for a plurality of frames, each frame identified with a respective phase of a physiological cycle;
 - (b) means for generating a first image associated with a first phase of the physiological cycle from image data from [at least two] multiple selected ones of the frames of (a) associated with [a] the first phase of the physiological cycle;
 - (c) means for generating a second image associated with a second phase of the physiological cycle from image data from [at least two] multiple selected ones of the frames of (a) associated with [a] the second phase of the physiological cycle; and

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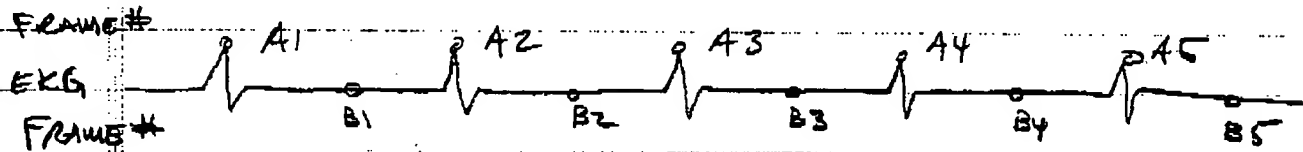
(d) means for displaying at least the first and second images in sequence to a user.

E. Review the rejection of claims 29 and 36

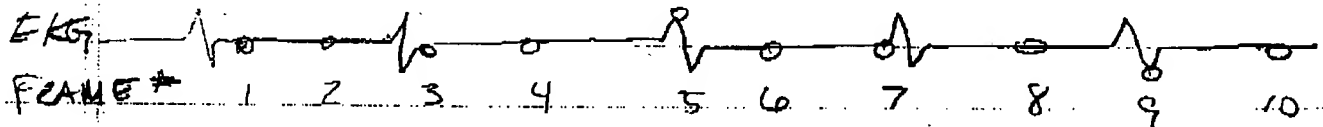
1. The specification provides support for these claims at page 6, line 13 and in Figure 6.

Fig A

A1-A5 ARE ALL 0° PHASE, AND IMAGE A IS
CONSTRUCTED FROM SELECTED ONES OF A1-A5.



B1-B5 ARE ALL 180° PHASE, AND IMAGE B IS
CONSTRUCTED FROM SELECTED ONES OF B1-B5.

Fig B (GANDINI)

GANDINI 3-D IMAGES ARE CREATED FROM SOME
OR ALL OF FRAMES 1-10, WITHOUT SORTING THE
FRAMES BY PHASE ANGLE.